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Approved For Release 2004/12/13 : CIA-RDP79B01709A001700020051-7

U-225X1

Copy 1 of 8

21 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
THROUGH: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division
SUBJECT: Requirement for Photo Coverage of Vietnam/South China

1. Information is lacking on whether or not the Communist Chinese are engaging in a buildup in South China of a nature which would be required for any military intervention in the Laotian/Vietnam situation.

2. If the international situation were to deteriorate rapidly and U.S. Forces were required to undertake military action incident to ChiCom intervention, U.S. Forces are lacking current intelligence on the staging areas North and East of the North Vietnam border and the ChiCom defensive capabilities on Hainan Island and the Canton/White Cloud area. In most cases in South China there is little or no intelligence available on the logistics and ground forces. Photography will provide an indication of ChiCom capabilities. It will also provide data essential to effective targeting and preparation for intervention by U.S. military forces if such were required.

3. Previous Indochina and ChiCom U-2 photography has demonstrated that we can learn details bearing upon airfield activity, rail transportation activity, port activity, military encampments, and in some cases, electronic installations.

4. It is recommended that U-2 coverage be obtained on an urgent basis of the area North and East of the North Vietnam border as well as Hainan Island.*

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JAMES Q. REBER
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

* The State Department reserves its position on this recommendation.

CONCUR: The recommendation contained in paragraph 4 is approved:

N. A.
STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, DDP/DDP

NOT APPROVED
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director (Plans)

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ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1.	DDP	<i>Am 2/20</i>	<i>1 May</i>
2.	<i>Mr. Gorman (This is one</i>		
3.	<i>of the period for DET's</i>		
4.	<i>4:00 NSC msg that Mr</i>		
5.	<i>Burill spoke to you</i>		
6.	<i>about - Don)</i>		
7.			
RETURN TO SENDER C/SRS			
ACTION		CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION
COMMENT		FILE	SIGNATURE
REMARKS			
The attached document replaces a COMOR recommendation on recoveage of South China North of the border 11 April 1961).			

NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE
C/SRS/DPD/DDP		